From: perf@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of PERF Daily Clips
To: gterry@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: PERF Daily Clips: San Francisco to force treatment on mentally ill drug users
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:16:03 AM

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PERF Daily Clips - June 6, 2019

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MENTAL ILLNESS

Associated Press: San Francisco to force treatment on mentally ill drug users

San Francisco officials decided Tuesday to force some people with serious mental illness and drug addiction into treatment, even if it goes against the spirit of a city known for its fierce protection of civil rights.

Several members of the Board of Supervisors voiced deep concerns Tuesday about the possibility of taking away a person's civil liberties, but the proposal for a pilot program passed 10-1.

Mayor London Breed and other supporters say the move - known as conservatorship - is necessary to help people who are often homeless, addicted to drugs and have a mental illness, making them a danger to themselves.

The measure would apply to a handful of people, the city's department of public health estimated, although the number would grow under legislation pending at the state level.

San Francisco struggles with income inequality and a growing number of homeless people - some with disturbing behavior tied to drugs, schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. They shuffle from the streets to jail and psychiatric care, unaware they need steady treatment, sometimes dashing into traffic or screaming at strangers.

MENTAL ILLNESS

ABC 12 Abilene (TX): City of Abilene to implement Crisis Response Team program next week

The City of Abilene will soon be rolling out its newly-formed Crisis Response Team (CRT) that will be dealing with mental health emergencies.

The CRT program is a collaboration between the Abilene Fire Department, the Abilene Police Department and the Betty Hardwick Center that is committed to providing mental health assistance to the people of the City of Abilene.

The CRT program will capitalize on combining a number of crucial mental health resources with providing timely care to people in need of mental health assistance.

OFFICER DISCIPLINE

Los Angeles Times: All-civilian panels could decide LAPD misconduct cases starting June 13

The Los Angeles Police Commission on Tuesday finalized qualifications for residents who will serve on the powerful boards that review serious officer misconduct.

Beginning June 13, officers can choose to have a Board of Rights panel comprised of three civilians review their discipline case or select a board with the current makeup of one civilian and two LAPD command staff members.

The change - one of the most sweeping expansions of civilian oversight in decades - comes after voters in 2017 approved Charter Amendment C, which gave officers the all-civilian option despite opposition from civil liberties groups that argued that civilians tend to be more supportive of officers. The City Council formalized the measure in April.

In creating the all-civilian panels, the LAPD is entering uncharted waters. Only about 200 of the nation's 18,000 police departments have any form of civilian review boards, according to Governing magazine.

Samuel Walker, professor emeritus of criminal justice at the University of Nebraska Omaha, said civilian panels have not resulted in widespread change to officer discipline. Community activists in other cities complain that members of civilian panels are easily co-opted by police and begin to see things from the officer's perspective, he added.

"I have always regarded it as another impediment to accountability - another stop along the way to a final decision which creates the opportunity for mitigation of punishment," Walker said.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Baltimore Sun: Baltimore Police unveil formal policy on release of video from officer involved shootings

Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison introduced a new policy on Wednesday that allows him to take up to a week following a police shooting to decide whether body camera footage will even be released to the public.

Although the department hasn't had a formal policy for years, previous commissioners have consistently opted to release video footage after police involved shootings or major incidents, often within days of the incident. Now the decision rests solely with Harrison - after input from his internal affairs staff.

Under the policy, one of the first major rule changes announced since Harrison took over the department earlier this year, the BPD's Public Integrity Bureau can provide audio and video recordings within 24 hours of an incident to the Baltimore State's Attorney's Office, the Maryland U. S. Attorney's Office and the Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights. The bureau also has up to five days to make recommendations to Harrison about publicly releasing footage after an incident.

Then, within 48 hours of receiving that recommendation, Harrison will decide whether the recordings will be released to the public.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

MassLive.com: Boston police roll out nearly 200 body cameras for officers in Dorchester, South Boston

Boston police introduced nearly 200 body-worn cameras in several Boston neighborhoods on Monday in what the department says is a commitment to transparency.

The implementation follows a pilot program that began in 2016 and received strong criticism from the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, the union that represents patrol officers. Former Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, however, said a study of the pilot revealed beneficial results from the police body cameras.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

South Florida Sun Sentinel: Miami Beach police chief heading to Baltimore

Miami Beach Police Chief Dan Oates who announced his retirement from law enforcement in April, is heading to Baltimore.

Oates will be heading a Department of Justice team as a consultant to advise the Maryland city under a new Public Safety Partnership grant, according to Miami Beach police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez.

In his new role, Oates, 64, will be working with Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison and his staff to coordinate federal resources to reduce crime there.

JUVENILES

Omaha World-Herald: New effort aims to keep certain nonviolent juvenile offenders out of detention

Omaha police will take some youths they arrest for nonviolent offenses to the Child Saving Institute for initial assessment instead of to juvenile detention under a new program.

The Child Saving Institute Reception Center is aimed at reducing the unnecessary detention of youths who aren't dangerous but get picked up on suspicion of minor offenses. Probation officers and counselors can assess the youths' risk of being a danger to the community or not showing up for court, and counselors can start determining their needs for services, without having to lock them up in a detention center first.

PRIVACY ISSUES

Associated Press: Watchdog says FBI has access to about 640M photographs

A government watchdog says the FBI has access to about 640 million photographs - including from driver's licenses, passports and mugshots - that can be searched using facial recognition technology.

The figure reflects how the technology is becoming an increasingly powerful law enforcement tool, but is also stirring fears about the potential for authorities to intrude on the lives of Americans. It was reported by the Government Accountability Office at a congressional hearing in which both Democrats and Republicans raised questions about the use of the technology.

The FBI maintains a database known as the Interstate Photo System of mugshots that can help federal, state and local law enforcement officials. It contains about 36 million photographs, according to Gretta Goodwin of the GAO.

But taking into account the bureau contracts providing access to driver's licenses in 21 states, and its use of photos and other databases, the FBI has access to about 640 million photographs, Goodwin told lawmakers.

DRONES

CBS 13 Sacramento: Lodi Police utilizing their eye in the sky to fight crime

Lodi Police are making good use of a drone purchase by the department over a year ago. They say more departments around the country are turning to the technology and adding it the toolbox to fight crime.

Officers have to be licensed by the FAA to become drone pilots and they say the training is worth it to keep communities safe.

Earlier this week, Detective Michael Hitchcock deployed his drone to capture a suspect who was running from in the 300 block of Maple Street. Police were serving an arrest warrant and the man took off. As shown in the video in this article, the drone was able to track the suspect and help position officers on the ground who made a quick arrest.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Honolulu Civil Beat: Former Las Vegas captain adapts to new world as Kauai police chief

Todd Raybuck is acutely aware that his new job - chief of the Kauai Police Department - might be in an entirely different world from the Las Vegas law enforcement to which he grew accustomed. On Kauai, Raybuck's department is authorized to have 168 officers, though attrition and difficulty recruiting new cops - an epidemic problem across Hawaii - means that, as an actual matter, he is down 22 officers from the authorized strength.

And, of course, any police emergency on Kauai will occur without any prospect of significant back-up resources. There is no next city or county over that can easily send help. As it is, an officer who needs assistance on Kauai lives with the reality that the next closest officer to come to his or her aid may be 25 minutes or more away.

The chief, who took over the department in late April, retired in February from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, where he served for nearly 27 years and rose to the rank of captain commanding one of the department's nine patrol divisions.

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